

THE JIM RIVER VALLEY COUNTRY

REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN CENTRAL NORTH DAKOTA.

Mammoth Crops of Flax, Grains, Hay and Live Stock Make Farming a Veritable Bonanza in the Northwestern Country.

By HERBERT VANDERHOOF.

Railway extensions, which are being pushed at a rapid rate, are working wonders in the development of North Dakota. Nature has done much for the husbandman in this state, and it has been the purpose of these articles to give prominence to such actual facts as might be of interest to settlers and investors. In the early stages of settlement the railway builders have one main purpose, and that was to find the shortest and quickest routes to the mines of the Rockies on the west and the granaries on the east. In those days the central part of North Dakota seemed to offer few inducements, even to pioneers. Its soil was not understood, its productiveness had not been tested, and accessibility of markets had not been made possible. With the construction of trunk and branch lines through this part of the state a new era has been opened and an empire of wealth created.

These statements apply particularly to the great stretch of land known as the Jim River valley, lying south of Devils lake, west of Grand Forks, and east of the Missouri slope. Here the land is not only exceedingly fertile, but is well watered by lakes and streams, especially in Stutsman, Griggs and Foster counties. These and two or three contiguous counties form a section of North Dakota which was unclaimed and neglected for years, while other parts, more favored by nature, had been well settled. Wheat growers crowded into the famous valley of the Red River of the North, the rich pasture lands in the western end of the state attracted cattlemen, and the slopes of the Missouri, then the great commercial highway of the northwest, became reasonably well peopled at a comparatively early date.

The Most Profitable Crops.

When the tide of immigration from the east and south first turned to that part of North Dakota which I am now writing there was an attempt to make wheat and oats the main crops, and this effort was not altogether successful measured by the standards prevailing in the eastern and northern states. The yields were larger there, those obtained in the eastern and central eastern states, from which the newcomers had migrated, but the farmers had based their expectations upon what were then known as "bonanza" crops, and unthinkingly many of them abandoned their lands as unprofitable. Today these men realize their blunder. Modern methods and the injection of brains as well as muscle into the management of farms are fast making wealth for energetic agriculturists in the very places which some twenty years ago were pronounced unfit for farming purposes. Of course, the railway extensions already referred to, have been an important factor in this work, but the main influence has been the fertility of the soil, climatic advantages, and the common sense shown by those who studied the conditions, and put the land to the purposes for which it was best suited.

Great Demand for Land.

While flax is by no means the only product of this part of the state, yet it is the one thing that called the attention of land owners and land seekers to this very fertile part of North Dakota. The demand for land in these counties increased so rapidly that when, in 1898, the board of university and school lands offered its first public sale of institution and common school lands the average amount received per acre for these lands was in excess of the minimum valuation set by the board. Land seekers flock to this part of the state so rapidly that the population of one county (Wells) increased 300 per cent in less than two years and a half. What is true of the advance in population in this county also applies in large degree to other counties in the same territory.

With the cultivation of flax as the principle staple firmly established, interest in the raising of wheat, oats, corn, and other grains revived, and there came a change in methods which insured abundant yields, so that now the production is not only largely profitable, but well diversified. Today I find comfortable homes and well-filled barns all over the great tract, and nearly every farmer takes a pardonable pride in telling about the yield per acre, pointing to the admirable condition of his live stock as a proof that it is indeed a land of plenty. Barley is a prime favorite as a crop, and the average yield is about thirty bushels to the acre. Oats run about thirty-four bushels, while the production of wheat is 185 bushels. There are no statistics available regarding corn, but the production has increased fourfold in ten years, and is still advancing. Flax remains the chief source of income, over 52 per cent of the total yield in the United States being produced in North Dakota.

Lands on Easy Terms.

There was a time when the cattleman laughed at the idea of providing winter feed for his live stock, but in this, as in other lines, common sense has prevailed, and as a result the live stock industry is yearly becoming more and more valuable. The land is particularly adapted to the growing of hay, and under cultivation mammoth yields of the better grades of tame grasses are secured.

It will probably surprise the uninitiated to know that the central section of North Dakota is the only real rival to Kalamazoo, Mich., in the production of celery. In this valley this vegetable grows and thrives fully as well as in Michigan, and there are many farms on which celery is raised as the principal staple with wheat and oats as incidentals.

While there is a steady influx of population, there are thousands of acres of land in this section just as productive as any under cultivation that may be had on easy terms. The state of North Dakota has unsold, and for lease, thousands of acres, the railways have large tracts on the market, private owners who bought for a some years ago are offering bargains, and there is still a goodly quantity of government lands subject to homestead entry. At the present rate of immigration, however, the more desirable sections are fast going out of the market. At least that I have seen while here, and learned from farmers who came here poor, and may now be classed as wealthy, it is certainly a most desirable place to locate in, especially for those who rent farms in the older sections of the country, and find it difficult to make headway.

As explained in some of my previous letters, there has been a lot of misinformation sent abroad concerning North Dakota. Contrary to general belief, the country is well watered, the climate is good, and the soil unduly rich. At one time the question of fuel was a serious one, but this is now settled. The main and branch railroad lines crossing this part of the state have brought to the farmer the coal of the Missouri slope on terms that make the question of fuel a small item in household economies. To the man who is seeking to better his condition the field is a most inviting one.

CADETS ARE PROGRESSING

TWENTY-FOUR BOYS JOIN COMPANY FORMED FOR THE LADS OF LOWRY HILL.



CADET WERNER ELLER, Company F, First Regiment.

TONIGHT'S DRILLS

First regiment, Company C; Company I, Second regiment, Third Ward Republican hall.

Twenty-four boys yesterday joined Company H of the Second regiment, Journal cadets, which was formed for the accommodation of those living on Lowry Hill. The company is to be further recruited. The boys were given a full drill, which included the movements for the company competition May 1, and made a surprisingly good showing, which was due to a number of them having drilled before.

There were six drills of companies last night, at which there was a good attendance. All are making fine progress.

REFUSES PASS; CALLS IT GRAFT.

Pittsburg, April 18.—Mayor George V. Guthrie of Pittsburg has broken all records by refusing a season pass to baseball games and declined to attend the opening game in this city. The mayor considers baseball passes a form of graft he bitterly opposes.

MANY CHILDREN WRITE TO PRINCESS TRIxie

The great interest which has been aroused among the school children by the Jim Key Bands of Mercy is finding daily expression in the attention which is being showered on "Princess Trixie," the queen of educated horses, at the Unique. The beautiful little mare is doing a harness stunt this week and exhibiting many new tricks to show how wise she is. Crowds of people throng the theater at every performance, old people, young people, middle-aged people, and people of all ages and nationalities, for Trixie, besides being as smart as the proverbial whiff, is a little beauty, and the delight of horse lovers.

But of all the attentions which she daily receives, none reflects so admirably the spirit of kindness and affection as the little love letters written to Trixie by the children. W. H. Barnes receives a number of these little missives every day. They come addressed to "Miss Trixie," "Miss Princess Trixie," "Her Royal Highness, Princess Trixie," and "Little Trixie." "Beautiful Princess," etc., etc. Some of the letters are printed in great, awkward childish letters, but they all breathe admiration for Mr. Barnes' pet. "I am sometimes almost affected to tears by these letters," said Mr. Barnes, "especially those from poor children who have not even seen the mare. But they want to, and haven't the money. I wish I could afford to exhibit Trixie to children in great tents for the remainder of her days, without charging a penny. One cannot be in touch with so much purity, sincerity and simplicity as these letters betray without feeling nobled."

Mr. Barnes showed a letter from "Mamie," which read as follows: "Dear Little Trixie—I was to see you yesterday and am coming again Saturday. Please look over to me on the right side, if I get my seat in the right place. We haven't got any horse, but I have got two kittens and Fred has a dog who can lay down and roll over. I hope you get lots of hay and corn to eat."

GATHER FISH EGGS

Three Crews at Work Collecting in Northern Rivers.

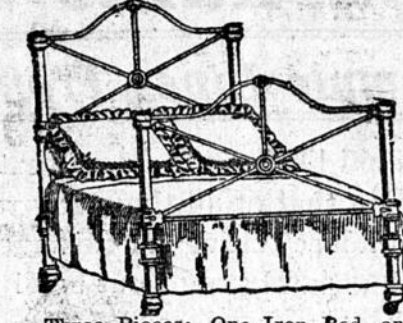
Pike eggs are being collected by crews of men employed by the state game and fish commission, and will be hatched at Willow Brook for distribution. There are eight men at work near Brainerd, fifteen near Tower and eight near Duluth. If not interfered with by log drives the workmen will collect plenty of eggs. Trout fry are being shipped in large quantities from both hatcheries. The Glenwood hatchery, which barely started business last year, is now running at full capacity, and is supply most of the points in the northern half of the state.

The Home of the Outfit

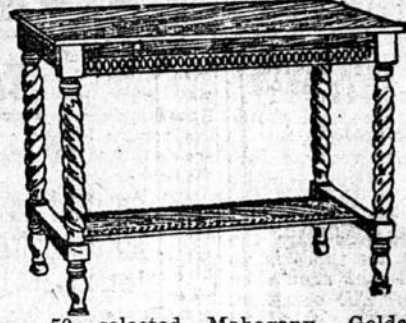
Buy your outfits and furniture as you would anything else. Find out the capacity and possibilities of the store. Leave nothing to chance, for the furnishing of your house is a serious bit of business. Bear in mind, too, that our ability and desire to extend easy credit and make home outfitting a real pleasure are just as great as our ability to outbuy and undersell any other concern handling furniture in this city.

You pay no more for Boutell's Good Furniture than others ask for the cheaply made kind

Complete Outfit Library Tables Dressers



Three Pieces: One Iron Bed, one Woven Wire Spring, one Wood Fiber Mattress; any size. The three pieces would sell regular at \$7.50. Special, Thursday only, \$5. One Outfit to a customer only.



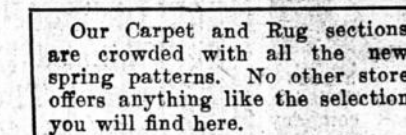
50 selected Mahogany, Golden and Weathered Oak Library Tables. All the celebrated Grand Rapids make. At special sale Thursday—\$12 \$15 \$18 \$20 \$25 \$28 and \$35.



Extra large Dresser; size of base 23x45; full serpentine front; made of Golden Ash; has an 18x34 French bevel plate mirror. Worth regularly \$80. Our special price only \$18.00.



200 Tapestry Brussels Rugs, all fringed, size 27x54. Sale price, each \$1.00. 100 Tapriz Tapestry Brussels Rugs, size 9x10-6. Sale price, each \$9.90.



300 Misfit Rugs, Velvet and Tapestry, good patterns, carpet sizes. Sale price \$12 \$14 \$16 and \$18. 100 Cocoa Door Mats, size 14x22. Sale price \$45c.



Our Carpet and Rug sections are crowded with all the new spring patterns. No other store offers anything like the selection you will find here.

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HOUSE CLEANING ECONOMY

Colors of JAPALAC

Dark Oak Natural Mahogany Cherry Dead Black Brilliant Black Gloss White Flat White Ox Blood Red Malachite Green Blue Ground Gold Aluminum



JAPALAC WEEK

Begins April ninth throughout the United States. You can obtain JAP-A-LAC, this perfect rejuvenator of everything about the home, from your paint dealer. Watch his window. JAP-A-LAC is colored varnish of the highest grade. Don't throw away any dilapidated piece of furniture, JAP-A-LAC it.

Uses of JAPALAC

Chairs Tables Chandeliers Audions Floors Weather-Beaten Doors Plank Furniture Interior Woodwork Linoleum Wicker Furniture Picture Frames Plate Racks Wire Screens Radiators Ranges

JAP-A-LAC

Dead Black applied to Chandeliers produces the popular, black wrought-iron finish so much desired at the present time. Chandeliers are more or less affected by heat. They are at the top of the room and perhaps receive more heat than anything upon the floor, so heat rises and warms dust and dirt with it. A coat of Dead Black JAP-A-LAC on your chandeliers will keep off your room more than you can imagine. Try it now and see for yourself.

JAP-A-LAC Oak, Mahogany, Natural, Cherry or Walnut used on a Table produces a beautiful and smooth finish on it which has been scuffed and rusty looking, remains in work condition, JAP-A-LAC does its work with magical results. JAP-A-LAC is a piece of furniture, get a can of

Table

Picture Frame

Porch Furniture

Range and Plumbing

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